

Meeting Minutes
Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup of the
Advisory Committee on Water Information
November 30, 2017: 1:00 – 2:30 Eastern Time

Call-in Number for audio and web link for presentation slides:

CALL-IN: 1-866-299-3188, code 202-564-0734#

When it is time to attend the meeting, please visit this link to view the presentations:

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?MTID=m7a96288d6d552b5221764212f91e2>

Attendees:

Paul Freedman, WEF	John McShane, ASFP	Mitch Heineman, ASCE
Deirdre Mason, ASDWA	Karen Metchis, EPA	Nancy Turyk, NALMS
Dwight Atkinson, EPA	Kate White, COE	Stacey Archfield, USGS
Eric Loucks, ASCE	Lisa Engelman, AWRA	Mary Musick, GWPC
Heather Cooley, Pacific Inst.	Marla Stelk, ASWM	Jimmy Hague, TNC
Jeff Manning, ACWA	Melissa Samet, NWF	Mikko McFeely
Jerad Bales, CUAHSI	Scott Berry, U.S. Water Alliance	Wendy Norton, USGS-ACWI

Presenters/Guests:

Brian Hart, Upper Colorado River Basin Commission
Stacey Archfield, U.S. Geological Survey

I) Introductions and Agenda Review

II) Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting (see draft: http://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/index.html)

III) 2017 Annual report of WRACC Workgroup (attached) for review and approval

IV) Presentation: “Voluntary Incentive Program for Water Conservation in the Upper Colorado River Basin, a Pilot Program” by Brian Hart of the Upper Colorado River Basin Commission

- Presentation slides are available here:
https://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/co_river_system_conservation_pilot_prog_brian_hart.pdf
- No Q&A session, due to time limitations. Workgroup members will send email to the presenter if they have questions.

V) Presentation: “Recent Trends in Flood Data” by Stacey Archfield, Ph.D., Research Hydrologist, Integrated Modeling and Prediction Division, U.S. Geological Survey

- Presentation slides are available here:
https://acwi.gov/climate_wkg/minutes/archfieldetal_acwi_wracc_nov_2017.pdf
- No Q&A session, due to time limitations. Workgroup members will send email to the presenter if they have questions.

VI) Discussion: Discussion on 2018 priorities, to incorporate into the draft 2018 Work Plan which when final will be presented to ACWI

- **Facilitated by incoming co-chairs Bales and White**
- See attachment, Ideas for WRACCW 2018
- We can't finish this task today but should discuss the suggestions that have been submitted thus far. There looks like a lot of overlap among the various suggestions the workgroup members submitted, so they should mesh together well.
- Question: Are we focusing only on freshwater? Answer: That has been our charge generally, yes, though our Terms of Reference just says "water resources adaptation." The National Action Plan that we commented on last year specifically deals with freshwater resources. We could add brackish water and seawater because those are important resources that need to be considered in discussions of adaptation.
- Incorporation of ecosystem services benefits – these benefits are difficult to quantify, and agencies have done a lot of thinking about the issue. We may benefit from doing an inventory of what work is currently being done by the agencies on this topic and explore ways we could assist.
- **ACTION: Wendy will share Jimmy Hague's presentation with the whole workgroup. The presentation is [here](#).**
- There is discussion on the Hill about resilience and about increasing the flood standard.
- Extend infrastructure discussion to not just new infrastructure but also to operations (reservoirs, etc.).
- Cost-savings information to help managers decide between traditional and green infrastructure when they're doing long-term planning – ensuring "best bang for the buck."
- Natural infrastructure should also be considered (including estuaries).
- Jerad summarized main topical areas we have talked about thus far: desal, water reuse, ecosystem services, operation of existing infrastructure, natural infrastructure // communication improvements // desire to continue commenting on reports dealing with climate adaptation (who wants our comments and what will they do with them? We need to make sure we have an audience before we start commenting.)
- We need to reach out more beyond the people who are in this workgroup and not just talk among ourselves.

VII) Round Robin Reports from Workgroup Members (brief highlights of other organization's activities, news, articles, and reports related to climate change and water)

- USGS Bulletin 17c Guidelines for Determining Flood Flow Frequency:
https://acwi.gov/hydrology/Frequency/b17c/bao-approval-copy_IP-065340_Cohn-Bulletin17c-09-25-2017.pdf
- NY Times article on flooding:
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/11/11/climate/houston-flooding->

climate.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fus&action=click&contentCollection=us®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=3&pgtype=sectionfront

- Reuters article on crowdsourcing data from smartphones on flooding
<https://uk.reuters.com/article/niger-floods-science/feature-armed-with-smartphones-and-boots-niger-youths-map-flood-risks-idUKL8N1MA2DK>

VIII) Adjourn